THE BOOK OF THE WEEK.

FRANCE. The Nation and Its Development. By W. H. Hudson (P. A. Stokes Company). \$3.50.

History for popular use is being slowly rewritten in the light of a mo sense of proportion. All too slowly for the thinker, for it is in just such series as the one planned by the Stokes Company, to which this volume belongs, that the old idea of relating dates of battles and the doings of kings as the aim and end of history is most rampant.

Because the present volume departs so radically, so comfortably and commendably from this old idea we hall the series with sincere praise and the hope that all the work will be as well done as is Prof. Hudson's. Prof. Hudson shows as self-evident the still too little understood fact that wars and royal dynastics are merely foam on the crest of the waves of human evolution; they are the most visible signs of what is happening, but they are merely symptoms. Underneath them the steady onward march of progress moves. the edifice of human civilization built up on thousands of destinies, striding forward or slipping backward in great waves which leave their impress on the shores of time. This is the viewpoint of Prof. Hudson's book, and it is indeed history humanized and made readable as well as helpful and instructive to the student who would understand the present in the light of the past. Equipped with knowledge and a capacity for study, Prof. Hudson is furthermore gifted with insight and a sense of humor, not always considered a necessary part of the historian's mental outfit. He has a keen insight into the true reasons for wars, and he does not mind stating them even now. Also he has the following: numerous little arrows of satire to fling at the clock of plety thrown around I kiss you for the last time on the incompetence and its harmful effects, from the painting of the weak, mean and brutal Chlovis as a saint by Gregory of Tours merely because that incompetent king was an orthodox Christian down to the dismissal of that able economist Turgot because he "did not go to mass."

The theme of the book is the struggle of a great race under centuries of "the divine right of kings," and all the oppression it entails, up through the successive stages of feudalism, despotism, unrest and revolution to a glimpee of democracy which may in time help to open the door to true freedom. Prof. Hudson tears the veil of sentiment from the faces of many a character idealized by the passing of time and the superficial reasoning of the old style history. But in the history of the true development of a whole people up from darkness there is so much that is admirable and hopeful that the tone of a book like this is far more inspiring than the idealizing of a martial king or of a vain and selfish queen who happened to be guillotined but had no other cisim to sympathy.

The most noteworthy chapters in this book are naturally those which deal with the slow development of the whole people along the line of social institutions, philosophy, political and legal practice, art and science. From the earlier and most understanding chapters on Feudalism and Chivairy, cruelly iconsciastic as they will seem to the romanticist, down to the description of the mental and psychic qualities of the Revolution, these chapters are overflowing with enlightening facts inspired by an angle of vision which is modern in the best sense. Seldom has the question of a nation's financing and taxation been so well treated in a popular history, for this is a subject too often neglected in spite of its importance. The chapters on John Law's "System" and on Turgot's term of office are particularly well handled. And in the story of the French Revolution, its successes and its failures, a waiting world can more easily understand what is happening now in Russia. Because of the great importance of such an understanding we will choose to quote just one of the many good things in this book, the closing words in the story of the French Revolution, as Prof. Hudson sums it up:

"The struggles, intrigues, anarchy and bloodshed which marked the period are not to be hastily set down to the account of liberty and democracy. A people born and bred in servitude is never likely in the moment of its emancipation to exhibit those virtues of patience and self-restraint which only the discipline of ordered freedom can foster, and the worst abuses of the Reign of Terror are the inevitable aftermath of the evils of the Old Regime."

CRITICAL REVIEWS OF IMPORTANT BOOKS in dramatic form. It is an interesting talk, and at the end the reader under-

a poetic drama finds its way behind the footlights, but how often is it that the poetry counts for nothing and the formal everything. Does Shakespeare ond act is a beautifully affective pasinterest the manager of to-day because Interest the poet of dignity which the footlights, but how often is it that the poetry counts for nothing and the preserves the note of dignity which the footlights, but how often is it that the poetry counts for nothing and the preserves the note of dignity which the footlights, but how often is it that the poetry counts for nothing and the preserves the note of dignity which the footlights, but how often is it that the poetry counts for nothing and the preserves the note of dignity which the footlights are written, Although perhaps and served for many years with seither than the preserves the note of dignity which the stage directions are written. Although perhaps and served for many years with seither the poetry counts for nothing and the preserves the whole work. Issuit of the stage directions are written. Although perhaps and served for many years with setting the preserves the note of dignity with the footlights are written. Although perhaps and served for many years with the directions are written. Although perhaps and served for many years with the footlights are written. of his poetry, or his theatrical ef-

Still, there must be readers of plays

The night is coming back into my soul.

Which are peetle, or at least literary.

Tristan, I am afraid. If this is love,
I am afraid of the intolerable love." or we should have no books like "The Dynasts." The chief justification of Eisewhere there is even a faint sugArthur Symons's Tristan is its charm gestion of the folk idiom. There is the Harmony Community in Indiana.

The question naturally no reason why Symons should not alSeth was brought from Scotland to

The problem of the reading as far from solution to-day as far from solution to-day as it has ever been. Poets considered to the Tristan literature in his blank.

The problem of the reading as least one exquisite poem, while of course Wagner is accessible in an adequate English version. Arthur Syline to write poets of the immortal passes." Mr. Barker not only announces that she is a likable person, but surpasses his praise in writing about her. The dialogue leaves the characters in exactly the same situation they were when the curtain rises that more are many renderings of the immortal passes." Mr. Barker not only announces that she is a likable person, but surpasses his praise in writing about her. The dialogue leaves the characters in exactly the same situation they were when the curtain rises the modern soldier.

The many renderings of the immortal passes." Mr. Barker not only announces that she is a likable person, but surpasses his praise in writing about her. The dialogue leaves the characters in exactly the same situation they were when the curtain rises the modern soldier.

The many renderings of the immortal passes." Mr. Barker not only announces that she is a likable person, but surpasses his praise in writing about her. The dialogue leaves the characters in exactly the same situation they were when the curtain rises the modern soldier.

The many renderings of the immortal them and the story, and English literature boasts of at least one exquisite poem, while of the war language of to-day. Now of their souls. So it is out a natural network to decrease the following husband with the statement in his lines some time before the outbreak of this country sould be faring forth at order, the modern soldier.

The many renderings of the immortal passes, and the manufacture boasts of the war language of to-day. Now of their souls. So it is out a natural network to decrease the souls are the following them are the manufacture boasts of the war language of to-day. Now of their souls. So it is out a natural network tinue to write poetle plays and to the Tristan literature in his blank crept that they are about to depart for critics of the theatre persist in converse tragedy. What differentiates it demning them as hybrids and relegat- from Wagner is its stark simplicity. play was written, although perhaps had served for many years with sol-In the most passionate scenes the poet

seeds on the modern English or Amer- I am afraid. I am afraid of love

lean stage does so because it is drama This is some death that has got hold on

Elsewhere there is even a faint sug-

GRANVILLE BARKER.

INTEREST

AUTHOR OF THREE SHORT PLAYS: LITTLE BROWN CO.

low his characters to speak the language of Synge and Yeats. To-ward the end Iscult of Ireland speaks

the stars

Now what a little sames holds the fire

That was blown out too early. There In politics and reforms, Jessonda delection the world, and I am out of place.

Could you not wait for me until I came,
Tristan?

In politics and reforms, Jessonda deserved the love of the book's hero.

Little Columbine, too, is an engaging person; Mrs. Owen has a faculty for

(She lies down beside him and dies.) Mr. Symons has added no single element of dramatic value to the story as we know it, but the direct, simple and of many passages, will afford the reader a pleasure he has not perhaps experienced at Wagner's "Tristan" or in scanning the lines of Matthew

THREE SHORT PLAYS. By Granville Barker. (Little, Brown &

Co.) \$1. Mr. Barker's three plays are written frankly to be read rather than to be acted. The first, Rococo, is a farce. that is, it has all the absurdities and extravagances of farce, with little of the humor and quick lines. It is the story of a violent fist fight in the family of an English vicar, over a rococo vase, a legacy. The play of course erminates in the breaking of the vase. The second play, Vote by Ballot, offers a situation which in life, or even in fiction, would be dramatic, but which in a play seems merely an open-The cover states that it come. is a comedy. The last of the three, Farewell to the Theatre, is not even dubbed "play" on the cover. It is "A Talk Between Edward McLanegan and Dorothy Taverner," set down in dramatic form, it is an interesting NEWS FROM THE WRITING WORLD. luncheon. One half wonders why the Sir George Younghusband. "I myself to an "ugly little Devil" that visits called them plays there would be less of the last two plays in particular are real and worth writing about.

SETH WAY. By Caroline Dale \$1.50.

Beth Way is a historical romance of

the backwoods of America when he in a story of this order. Moreover, so was a small boy, and until he was circumspect are matters of this kind about 15 years old he lived, untrained, uneducated, hunting and fishing, getting drunk occasionally. Then one day a stranger, a Scotsman like his at the very heart of the successful in the control of the successful in a story of this order. Moreover, so circumspect are matters of this kind that the reader is inclined to risk a small boy, and until he was circumspect are matters of this kind that the reader is inclined to risk a small boy, and until he was circumspect are matters of this kind that the reader is inclined to risk a small boy, and until he was circumspect are matters of this kind that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a small east to the hidden vein of enthusiant that the reader is inclined to risk a s mother begged Mr. Maclure to take the boy away with him where he might be educated and become of some the ardent, healthy visionary is still at use in the world. Seth was taken to large and active in the world Philadelphia, where he quarrelled with his new guardian, and so returned to the woods to find that his mother and DRALS OF PRANCE. stepfather had been killed by the Indians. He drifted among the back-woodsmen until one day he heard of lishing Co.) Owen's Harmony Community from the lips of a tiny French girl, Columbine. type and the delicate, rich drawings Years before, in Scotland, Seth had is at once an appreciation and a seen Robert Owen and admired him, memorial. For there were beautiful so he resolved to become a communist. places yesterday in the world which In the community had gathered intelligent, broad minded men and
women from all parts of the world.
There ultimately came Mr. Maclure,
Soth's foster father, and the old quar-

rel was forgotten in the happiness of cities; that many times in this black meeting once more. Seth studied in age of ours the detonation of a few came a well known geologist. His ro-mance with Jessonda Macleod, the moment made out of store that the beautiful young girl, half factor. mance with Jessonda Macleod, the moment made out of stone that lived beautiful young girl, half Scotch, half litalian, the Harmony singing teacher, is a charming part of the book. Jes- halls and towers in life that what is a charming part of the body.

It was the glory of the world:

All the world's dust, for Tristan can be dead.

Is a charming part of the body.

It was the glory of the world:

Beautiful, talunted and quite capable of taking care of herself in the days dead.

The body of the world is a real person, person of the preserved; and for those who cannot hap partly because she is so modern.

Beautiful, talunted and quite capable of taking care of herself in the days of taking care of herself in the days worth which is no more and thereby some faint regret for the indignity of the some faint regret for the some faint regret for the indignity of the some faint regret for the indignity of the some faint regret for the indignity of the some faint regret for the some faint regret faint regret for the some faint regret for the some faint regret for the some faint regret fa an unquestioned institution, interested its violation. in politics and reforms, Jessonda de-served the love of the book's hero. as if we curselves did not by instinct

igorous dialogue, the haunting beauty VIA BERLIN. By Crittenden Marriott. (Robert J. Shores Pub-

which makes delightful reading.

lisher.) \$1.50 net.

DRALS OF FRANCE. By George Wharton Edwards. (Pour Pub-

This big blue volume with the large

feel the difference between a clean fighter and a foul; and we talk very forgivingly and philosophically of disdrawing lovable and realistic characters. The book is entertaining and tant shames and injuries which touch written in an easy, narrative style us lightly as from far away.

> AUTUMN LOFTERERS. By Charles Hanson Towns. (George H. Doran.)

If Mr. Towns intended Autumn This book, which traces the vicissi- Loiterers as a defence of slow motortudes of a great international con- ing he has won his case. Driving a spiracy prior to the war, goes a long car at a "happy jog trot," as he calls way in proving how adept are news- it, seems to have all the advantage of paper men in the art of smelling out tramping with none of the weary an intrigue. Crittenden Marriott, the drawbacks. And walking or driving author, who gives ample evidence here or flying through New England vilof his training as a foreign cor-lages needs no recommendation. Mr. respondent, shows us the inside work-Towne and "Peb" found quickly that ings of a great political scoop through it is next to impossible to be a stranger the medium of an interesting tale of in New England. Yet four days seem plot and subterfuge. The man in the a short time to find out "East, West, street has never fully known the pre-ciso circumstances which prompted the as are described. But of course it is President of the United States to send a good way to end an essay. When-a fleet of sixteen warships around the ever he found he could stand the world. The reason for this presum- strain of prose no longer Mr. Towne able pleasure voyage on the part of our has inserted a poem written for the navy, together with an intrigue in- occasion, but after all that is done volving Germany, Japan and Brazil, even among our best essayists, and and the adventures befalling a certain the poems could be excused were it Walter Topham in behalf of a strange not. The book is easily written and packet necessitating a journey via quickly read, yet his advertisements Berlin, form the main threads of a of country life would hardly tempt swift, vigorous narrative. Of course, other than confirmed trampers to pour love and a beautiful adventuress, by from the big city and seriously de-absolute requisite, must figure highly crease the population.

TRISTAN AND INCLUT. By Ar- arises, Why another Tristan? There ically as she (Dorothy Taverner) ling contributed the word "Hun" to supreme expression to the conviction are many renderings of the immortal passes." Mr. Barker not only another tristan? There ically as she (Dorothy Taverner) ling contributed the word "Hun" to supreme expression to the conviction passes." Mr. Barker not only another tristan? There ically as she (Dorothy Taverner) ling contributed the word "Hun" to supreme expression to the conviction passes." Mr. Barker not only another tristan?

the good work, and they have be-tween them manufactured the cheery. There was Byror, who left all his of his poetry, or his theatrical effactiveness? It may safely be asserted

After the blinding sweetness of a mothey are amusing, and the characters devil may care, levable person enas an individual also possessed the it was yesterday that Rupert Brooke After that we shall have to take good loves her middle aged husband and is above attributes he was mostly ignowent out to the Wars and died,
rant of the fact. My early recollec- And Sir Philip Sidney's lyric voice was Owen. (Houghton Mifflin Co.) above attributes he was mostly ignorant of the fact. My early recollected and sir Philip Sidney's lyric voice was a lover meet as his arm was strong; and sir Walter Raieigh met the axe least jocose or light hearted except perhaps when he had too much beer. He was brave always, but with a sul-He was brave always, but with a sul-

len, stubborn bravery. No Tipperary or kicking footballs about it. "To Rudyard Kipling and his fellow writers tthe army owes a great debt of ninth." gratitude for having produced the splendid type of soldier who now stands as the English type."

Allan Breck it was, in Kidnopped, he, when he had run some twoscore of his enemies through in the roundhouse, sat him down and composed his "Song of the Sword"; and but the other day there was Rupert Brooks who died, "song on his lips, and in his hand a sword." Indeed, in the logical cheme of things the poet is a soldier, n idealist with the courage of his ong; and, in a manner of speaking. all soldiers are poets, whether or not

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"And now form curious thing," says which this is one stanzs) makes reply in to taunt him with his making of rhyme. He says:

lads and songs that it is a woman's "Other writers have some on with You forget all the fighting poets that

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